

List of titles in the Ladybird Series 606D (Well-loved tales)  
Graded in order of reading difficulty.

*Grade 1*

*The Elves and the Shoemaker*  
*The Three Little Pigs*  
*The Gingerbread Boy*  
*The Little Red Hen*  
*The Princess and the Pea*  
*The Sly Fox and the Little Red Hen*  
*The Three Billy-goats Gruff*  
*Chicken Licken*  
*The Enormous Turnip*  
*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*  
*The Magic Porridge Pot*  
*The Big Pancake*  
*The Old Woman and her Pig*  
*The Ugly Duckling*  
*The Emperor's New Clothes*

*Grade 2*

*Sleeping Beauty*  
*Dick Whittington and his Cat*

*Grade 2 (continued)*

*Puss in Boots*  
*Rumpelstiltskin*  
*Rapunzel*  
*The Wolf and the Seven Little Kids*  
*Little Red Riding Hood*  
*The Musicians of Bremen*  
*Pinocchio*  
*The Golden Goose*

*Grade 3*

*Cinderella*  
*Jack and the Beanstalk*  
*Beauty and the Beast*  
*Snow White and Rose Red*  
*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*  
*The Princess and the Frog*  
*Tom Thumb*  
*The Little Mermaid*

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# The Ugly Duckling









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WELL-LOVED TALES

# The Ugly Duckling

PRIZE DAY



retold for easy reading  
by LYNNE BRADBURY

illustrated by PETULA STONE

Ladybird Books Loughborough

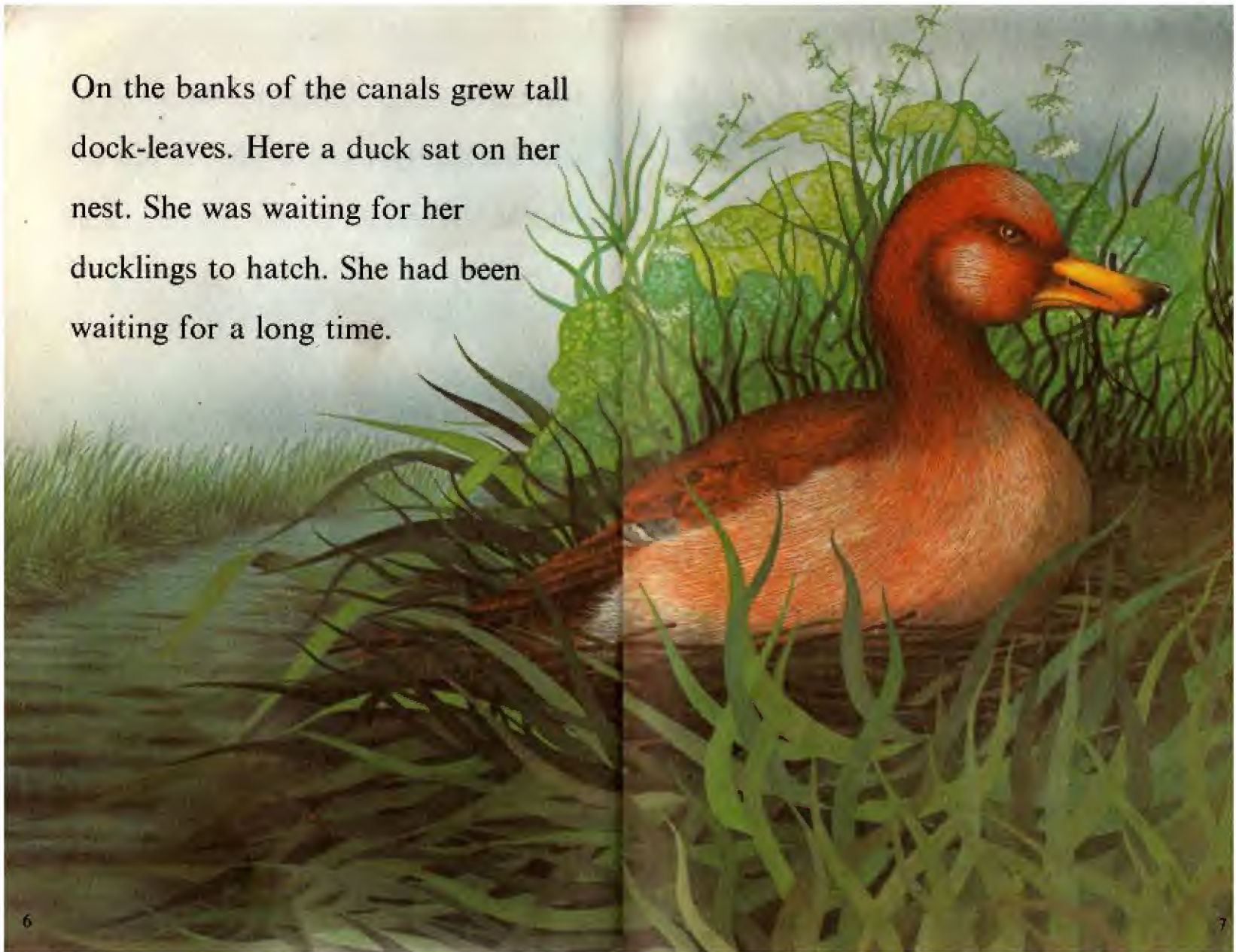
It was summer in the country. All the hay had been stacked and the fields of corn were yellow. Round

the edges of the fields ran deep canals and right in the middle was an old house.





On the banks of the canals grew tall  
dock-leaves. Here a duck sat on her  
nest. She was waiting for her  
ducklings to hatch. She had been  
waiting for a long time.





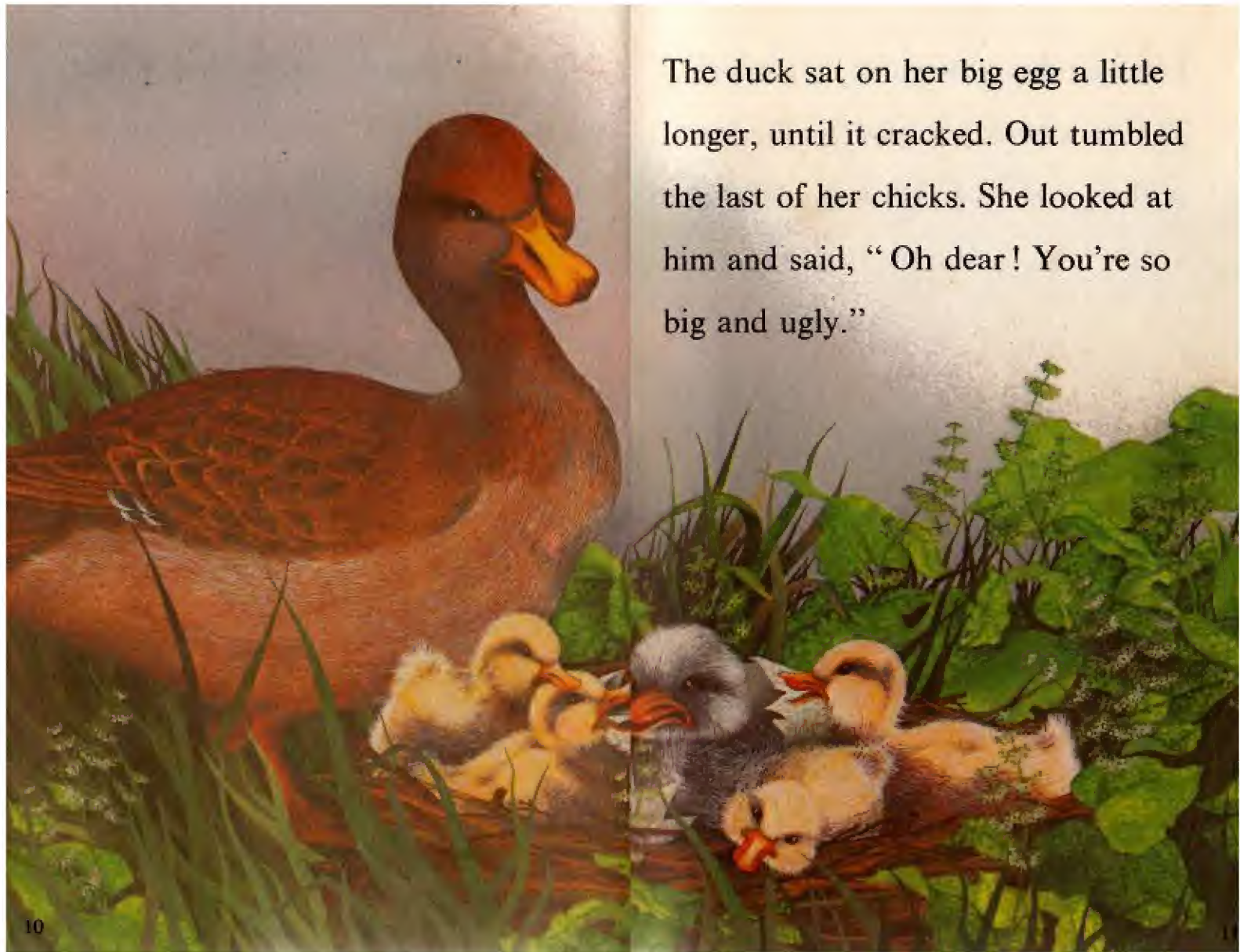


At last the eggs began to crack. One by one the ducklings poked their heads out. "Cheep, cheep!" they said, as they saw the big outside world.

Soon all the eggs had hatched except one. This was the biggest of all the eggs.



The duck sat on her big egg a little longer, until it cracked. Out tumbled the last of her chicks. She looked at him and said, “Oh dear! You’re so big and ugly.”





The next day was warm and sunny.  
The duck took her new family down  
to the canal. She splashed into the  
water. One by one the ducklings



followed her. Soon they were all  
swimming beautifully, even the big,  
ugly, grey one.







Next the mother took her ducklings into the duck-yard. "Stay close to me and watch out for the cat," she said to them, "and remember to

bow your heads to that duck over there." This was the oldest and most important duck in the yard.

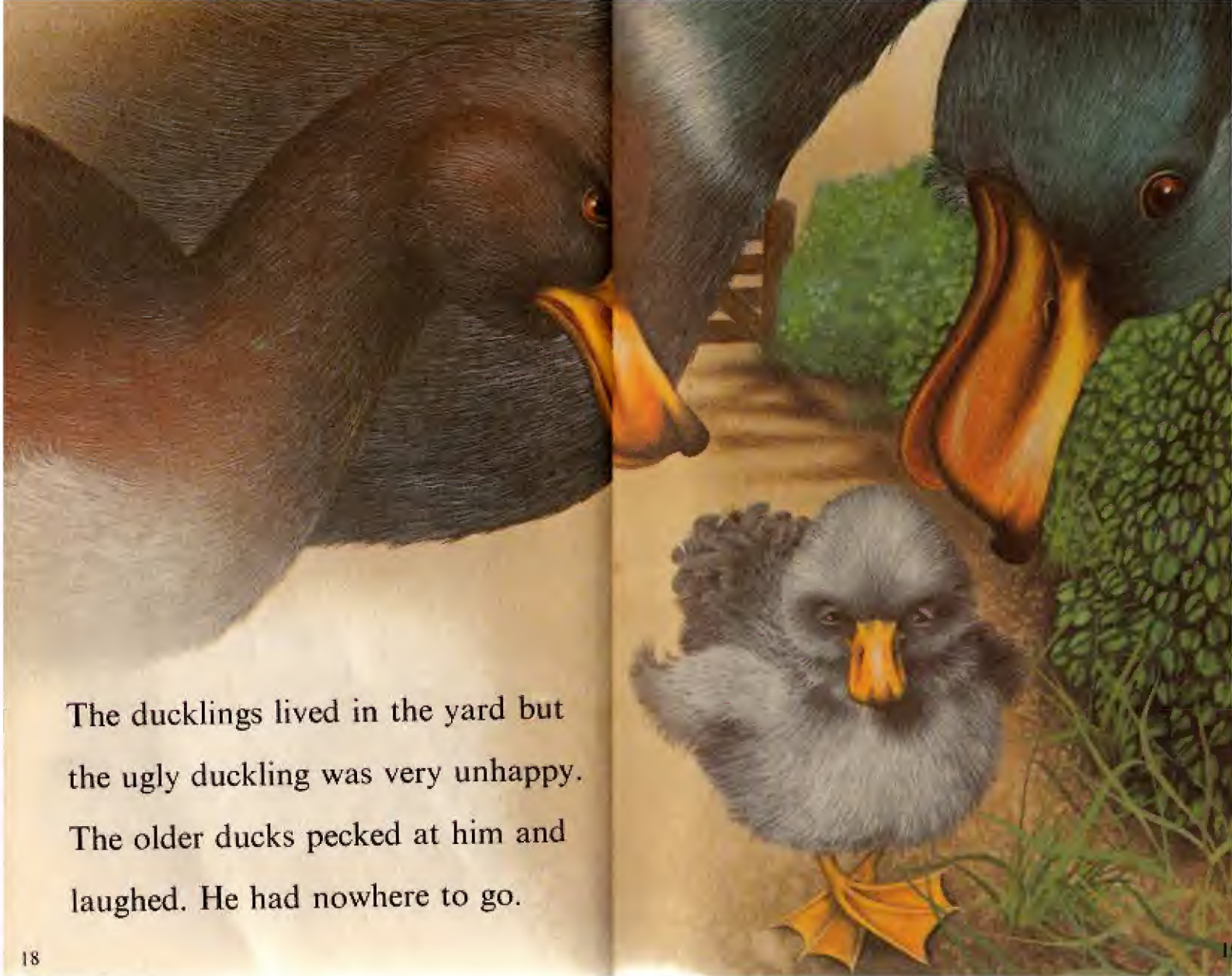




The duck-yard was very noisy. The ducklings walked close to their mother and remembered to bow their heads. The other ducks thought they were all beautiful — except for the big ugly one.





A detailed illustration of three adult ducks and one duckling. On the left, a brown duck with a white belly is shown in profile, looking towards the center. In the middle, a dark grey duck is partially visible. On the right, a green duck with a large, prominent orange beak is looking down at a small, grey, fluffy duckling. The duckling has a small orange beak and is standing on a patch of ground with some green grass. The background is a simple, light-colored ground with some green foliage on the right.

The ducklings lived in the yard but  
the ugly duckling was very unhappy.  
The older ducks pecked at him and  
laughed. He had nowhere to go.





One day he ran away. He ran until he came to the great marsh where the wild ducks lived. The duckling was very tired.



He lay in the rushes for two whole days. Then the wild ducks and some

geese came to look at him. "You're very ugly," they said, and they laughed at him.

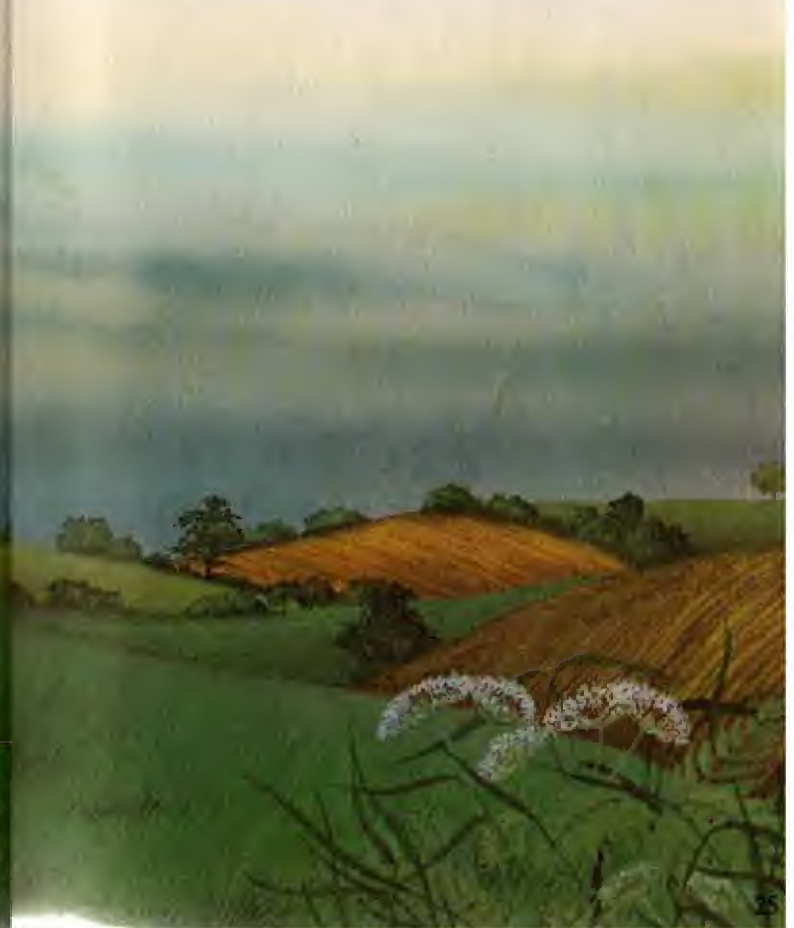




The poor ugly duckling ran away  
from the great marsh. He ran and  
ran over the fields and meadows.



The wind blew and the duckling was  
cold and tired.







It was getting dark. The duckling found a little cottage. It was very old and the door was falling off. This left a gap just big enough for the duckling to creep inside out of the cold.







An old woman lived in the cottage.  
She had a cat which could purr and  
a hen which laid eggs. They found  
the ugly duckling in the morning.





The old woman said, "You can stay.  
Now we shall have duck eggs."

So the duckling stayed but he did  
not lay eggs.







The cat said to him, "Can you purr?"

"No," said the duckling.

The hen said, "Can you lay eggs?"

"No," said the duckling, sadly.

"Then you must go," said the cat and the hen.



The ugly duckling went away again.  
He walked in the marshes and  
floated on the water. Everywhere he



went, birds and animals said, "How  
big and ugly you are."

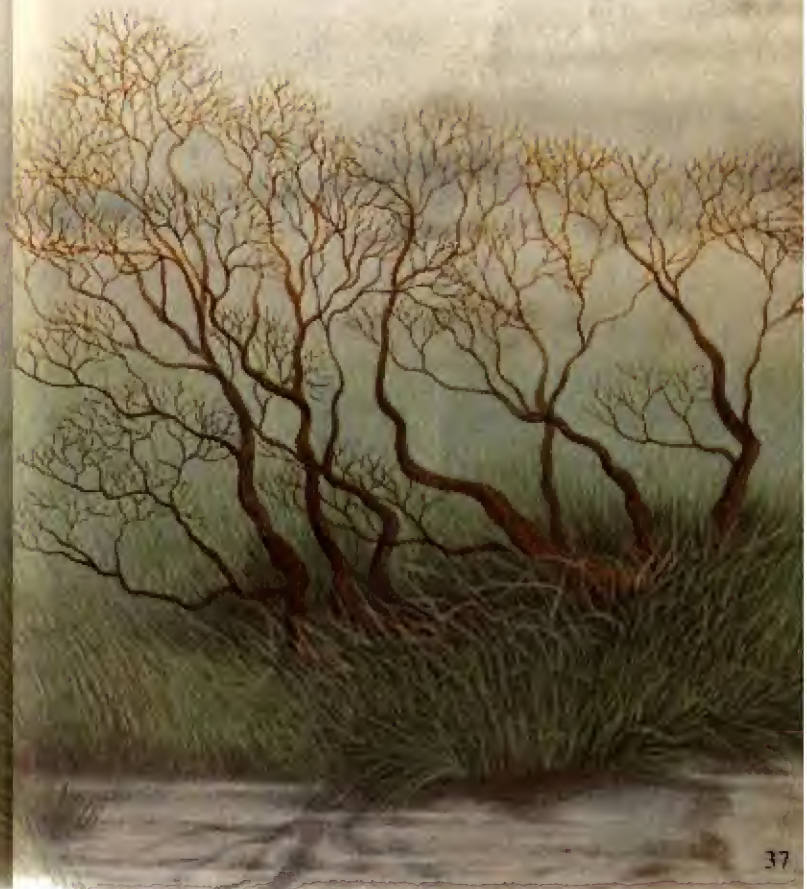




Winter was coming. The leaves had  
dropped from the trees. The ground



was cold and hard and the duckling  
had nowhere to stay.





One evening a flock of birds flew overhead. They were beautiful white swans with long necks.

“I wish I was like that,” said the duckling.







The winter grew colder. The duckling had to peck at the ice to find water. One night, he was so tired he fell asleep on the ice.

In the morning a farmer found the  
duckling.

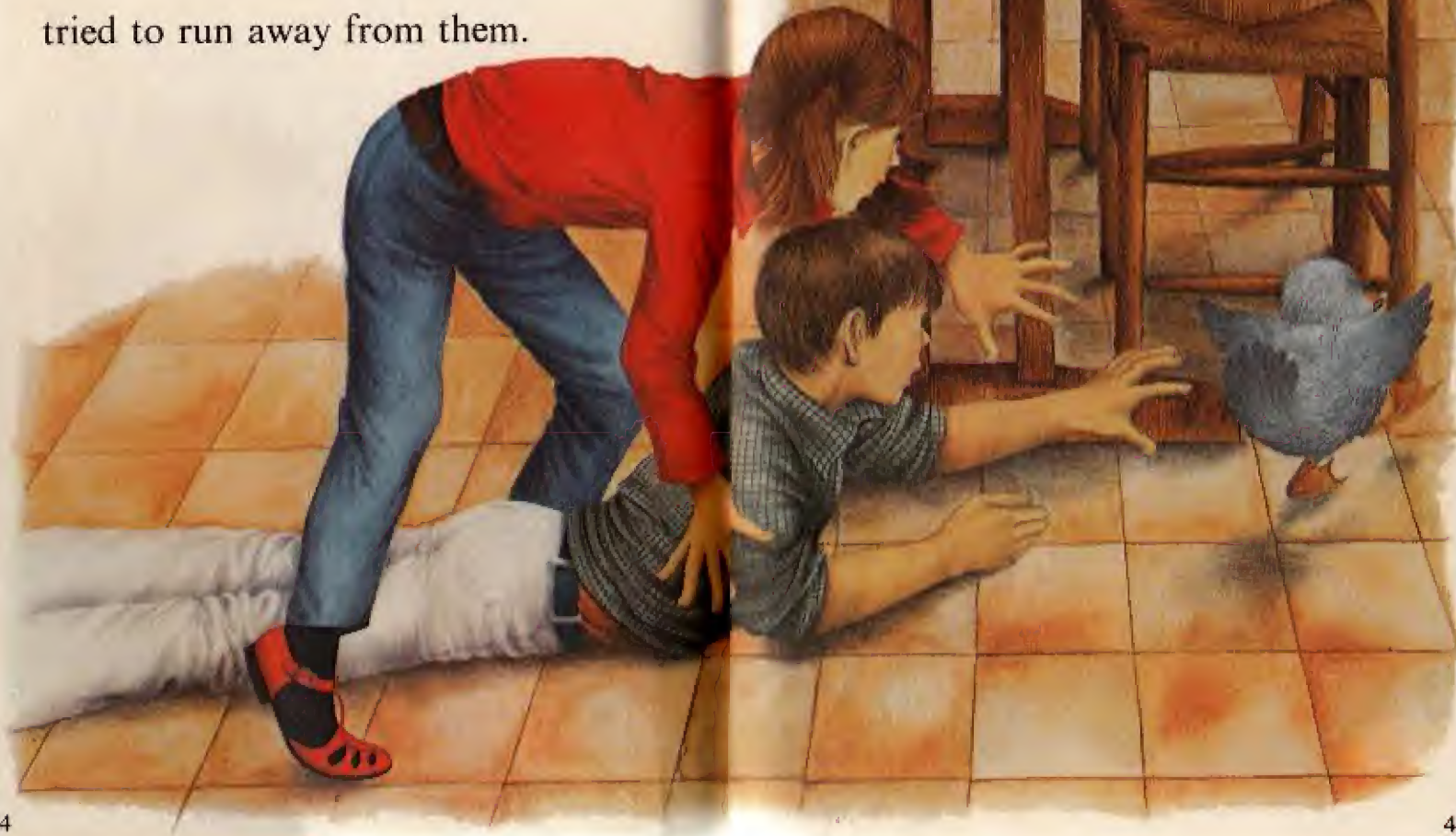


He took him home for his wife to  
look after.





When the duckling was better, the farmer's children wanted to play with him. He was frightened and tried to run away from them.





He flew into the milk churn and then landed in a barrel of flour. The children laughed and tried to catch him. The duckling ran far away.







He hid among reeds in the marsh all  
through the long, cold winter.

Then the warm spring sun came.  
The duckling spread his wings. They  
were strong wings now and he flew  
high into the air.



He flew over the canal and saw three beautiful swans. As he landed, the duckling saw himself in the water. He was not an ugly duckling at all. He was a beautiful white swan!

“Come with us,” said the other swans.

And he did.





